



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Southwestern Region 3  
Carson National Forest  
El Rito Ranger District

P. O. Box 56  
El Rito, New Mexico 87530  
(575) 581-4554  
FAX (575) 581-4556

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**2010**

## **ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS (AOIS)**

**SALVADOR COMPLEX ALLOTMENT # 00203**

**SALVADOR-ARRIBA GRAZING ASSOCIATION  
C/O RONNIE GARCIA  
P.O. BOX 696  
El Rito, NM 87530**

**CARSON NATIONAL FOREST  
EL RITO RANGER DISTRICT**

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**District Ranger**

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**Date**

## Annual Operating Instructions

### INTRODUCTION

This Annual Operating Instructions are in reference to the discussion you had with Diana Trujillo, Sandra Imler-Jacquez and Ezequiel Rael on January 11, 2010. The authorized eartag color is “yellow” for the permitted cattle. The permitted sheep are authorized painted “green”. The authorized use for the 2010 Grazing Season on the Salvador Complex Allotment is as follows:

**Table 1 - Permittee Information and Season of Use**

Permittee Name	Permitted		Authorized		Remarks Includes a reduction in numbers
	#	Season	#	Season	
J & R Partnership	305 c/c	6/16 – 10/15	69 c/c	6/16 – 10/15	
J & R Partnership	329 e/l	6/16 – 10/15	600 e/l	6/16 – 10/15	
Dolores & Ty Montoya	750 e/l	6/16 – 10/15	0 e/l	-----	Permittees have not run sheep on the Salvador Complex allotment since 2001.
Total	305 c/c 1079 e/l	6/16 – 10/15	69 c/c 600 e/l	6/16 – 10/15	

A range readiness inspection will be scheduled on June 8, 2010, to determine whether range vegetation and soils will be ready for grazing.

All livestock must be scheduled for counting prior to entering the Salvador Complex Allotment. The El Rito range personnel must be notified 5 days prior to the time livestock enter or leave the Forest. A five day grace period will be allowed to remove stray(s) permitted livestock from the allotment.

Nonuse applies only to animal numbers. Nonuse of a term permit must be requested in written form for all of the permitted numbers (*Total Nonuse*), or part of the permitted numbers (*Partial Nonuse*).

If a permittee elects to request partial or total nonuse, he/she is still responsible for maintenance of assigned range improvements.

A credit/refund application must be submitted within a week after placing livestock late on the allotment or removing livestock early. A credit/refund is not automatic but must be requested in writing by the permittee(s) and approved by the District Ranger.

### ROTATION SCHEDULE

Eventually a four pasture deferred rotation grazing season will be implemented when interior fences are in place. Until such time, season long grazing system for cattle and rotational grazing for the sheep will be conducted. Initial distribution of your livestock is tentatively planned as follows (actual dates will be based on range readiness):

**Table 2 - Rotation Schedule for Cattle Herd**

Season Long Grazing	6/16 - 10/15
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**Table 3 - Rotation Schedule for Sheep Band**

Salvador to ER Creek	6/16 – 6/30
Lower Chacon to ER Creek	7/01 – 7/15
15 Springs & Bonita Canyon	7/16 – 7/31
Upper Arriba (Jarosita)	8/01 – 8/15
Canjilon Meadows	8/16 – 9/15
Lower Chacon/Canjilon Creek	9/16 – 9/30
Abra	10/01 – 10/15

## FORAGE UTILIZATION STANDARDS

Forage utilization will be measured in predetermined key areas. We will need your assistance for locating and setting up these key areas. We will contact you later in the spring and summer to set these key areas. Proper utilization of forage is a critical factor in livestock management on the Salvador Complex Allotment. Monitoring will be conducted using Vegetative Utilization Monitoring. Permittees are invited and encouraged to accompany Forest Service range staff in the field while range condition evaluations are being made.

Utilization guidelines for the Salvador Complex allotment are light to moderate or 40% use of grazable forage. Utilization will be measured at the end of the growing season in the key areas.

Riparian stubble heights will be maintained at four inches throughout the grazing season. When Riparian areas have been grazed down to a four inch stubble height. Then cattle will be rotated to the next pasture or moved home early.

## MONITORING RESULTS FROM 2009

Pasture	Species Monitored	Utilization Guideline	Actual Utilization
Arriba	Kentucky bluegrass	20-40%	20-40%
Arriba	Carex	20-40%	20-40%
Salvador	Perry's oatgrass	20-40%	20-40%
Salvador	Arizona fescue	20-40%	20-40%
Abra	Bottle Brush Squirreltail	20-40%	20-40%
Abra	Arizona fescue	20-40%	20-40%

Last years guidelines were met in all pastures. There continues to be localized areas that are receiving heavier utilization than others. An area of concern is in the Salvador pasture near the Alamosa allotment boundary fence. Most of the grazing here likely occurs from elk and cattle drifting into the allotment from the Alamosa allotment.

## MONITORING

Field inspections will be conducted to monitor allowable use, and movement of livestock. Permittees are encouraged and invited to participate in these inspections. The dates scheduled for monitoring are July 22, August 25, and "End of Season" monitoring on October 20, 2010.

Once allowable use is achieved using the above Forage Utilization Guidelines, livestock must be moved into the next scheduled pasture or off the allotment. The length of season depends on the intensity of management and cooperation between permittees on livestock distribution and moving from pasture to pasture. Total removal of all livestock from the pasture/allotment is encouraged.

Both the Forest Service and the permittee are responsible for monitoring use and stubble height on the allotment to manage within specified utilization standards.

If areas within a pasture or the pasture as a whole begin to approach the identified stubble heights, then the remaining key areas will also be monitored and the pasture inspected to determine overall use patterns. This information will be used to determine if cattle need to be re-distributed within the pasture or removed from the pasture.

Monitoring items such as distribution patterns, range readiness, cattle numbers, forage use levels, salting practices, and condition of improvements will be evaluated.

Regular herding and riding practices are the key to achieving proper livestock distribution on the allotment, and to provide for the fullest use of the grazing season. Salt must be placed out of bottoms, away from water, roads, forest system trails, and recreational sites.

Range readiness inspections will determine whether range vegetation and soils are ready for grazing.

## **IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE**

The following projects and maintenance concerns were discussed during the annual meeting:

- Clean and repair berm on Garcia Tank in Abra pasture
- Permittee would like fence material to repair and reconstruct fence between Salvador Complex and Canjilon RD.
- Concerns about ABF with San Gabriel allotment – will discuss with San Gabriel permittees
- Permittee want to convert laydown fence on Mogote Ridge to a permanent fence
- Permittee would like us to address trespass cattle from Canjilon RD

It is important that you inspect and maintain the assigned fences and water developments in the “*entry pasture*” to a good functioning condition prior to the entry date. All other pasture fences and waters must be maintained prior to livestock movement into the next scheduled pasture(s).

In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to standard, you should notify the range personnel so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available. An inspection of your allotment prior to the entry date will be made to determine if maintenance is adequate.

If you have a need to cut fence stays or posts while you are maintaining your fences on your allotment, you can get authorization to cut these materials by obtaining a Free Use Permit from the range personnel at the El Rito office.

## **TRESPASS AND UNAUTHORIZED USE**

Notify the El Rito Ranger District of any known violation. Grazing permit holders who put on more livestock than permitted will be served with a notice of non-compliance, charged an unauthorized grazing fee, and face possible suspension/cancellation of all or part of their permit. Permittees are encouraged to report all trespass to the District range personnel.

## **ALLOTMENT STATUS**

Direction for management on the allotment is being documented in the AOIs.

An Environmental Assessment for the Salvador Complex Allotment was completed in 2008. An Allotment Management Plan for the Salvador Complex Allotment was completed in 2009 and provides management direction for the allotment.

The Salvador Complex Allotment is recognized as having suitable Mexican spotted owl habitat. However, no known sightings have been identified on the allotment.